

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0217
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14858

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT EG
SUBJECT: REFERENDUM DEVELOPMENTS

1. SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR. SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR BEGAN INTERROGATING LEFTIST JOURNALISTS OVER WEEKEND, BEGINNING WITH AHAM'S MOHAMED SID AHMED. PAPERS NOTE SID AHMED ACCOMPANIED TO SESSION BY LAWYER AND PRESS SYNDICATE REPRESENTATIVE. OFFENSIVE ARTICLES, REPORTEDLY, APPEARED IN LE MONDE. PAPERS REPORT DECISION WILL BE TAKEN SHORTLY ON SID AHMED'S TRAVEL TO ITALY IN ORDER RECEIVE JOURNALISTIC AWARD. HAYKAL'S INTERROGATION SET TO BEGIN JUNE 14.

2. HAMRUSH. HAMRUSH'S (ROSE EL YOUSSEF) INTERROGATION, HOWEVER, WILL HAVE TO COME LATER. DESPITE BAN ON TRAVEL FOR THOSE UNDER INVESTIGATION, HE APPARENTLY FLEW TO LONDON OVER WEEKEND WITHOUT DIFFICULTY. VP MUBARAK, FLYING BACK FROM ALEXANDRIA WITH AMBASSADOR AND SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR, CHIDED LATTER ON LETTING HAMRUSH SLIP THROUGH. HAMRUSH, REPORTEDLY, FIRST ASKED HIS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF IF HE HAD ANY OBJECTION TO TRIP. QUERIED SUBSEQUENTLY BY PROSECUTION, EDITOR REPLIED IT WAS NOT HIS JOB TO ENFORCE TRAVEL REGULATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THERE ARE SOME RED
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FACES AT CAIRO AIRPORT IMMIGRATION.

3. OLD POLITICIANS. ACCORDING PRESS, SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR HAS OFFICIALLY INFORMED FOUR LEADING WAFDISTS, SARAGEDDIN, ABDEL FATAH HASSAN, IBRAHIM FARAG, AND ZAKI ABDEL MIDAAL, THAT THEY ARE BARRED FROM POLITICAL ACTIVITIES UNDER PROVISIONS NEW LAW. ASU SEC GEN KHALIL'S PARTIES COM-

MITTEE IS SCHEDULED MEET LATER THIS WEEK TO CONSIDER
WAFD'S DISSOLUTION.

4. LEFT. SOME CONFUSION HAS RESULTED FROM LEFT PARTY
CONGRESS JUNE 11. LEFTISTS, APPARENTLY, DECIDED CONTINUE
"SUSPEND" ACTIVITIES BUT WILL RE-EXAMINE SITUATION ON
JUNE 18. AL AHALI, FOR MOMENT, WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED
BUT PARTY WILL PUT OUT INTERNAL INFORMATION SHEET. PARTY
CONCLUDED LAW IMPLEMENTING REFERENDUM IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL
BUT THER NO INDICATION HOW IT WILL SEEK TO ESTABLISH
THIS. LEFTIST MP HARIRI OVER WEEKEND ATTENDED FIRST
PARLIAMENTARY SESSION SINCE HIS INCARCERATION.

5. COMMENT: LEFTISTS INCREASINGLY GIVE IMPRESSION THEY
ARE SEEKION CONFRONTATION WITH GOVERNMENT. SERIES OF
PARTY CONGRESSES AND ISSUANCE OF INTERNAL INFORMATION
SHEET WOULD NOT APPEAR COMPATIBLE WITH "SUSPENSION."
WE SUSPECT GOVERNMENT WILL LOSE LITTLE TIME IN PICKING
UP CHALLENGE. EILTS

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